

# The Detroit News

www.detnews.com

---

December 16, 2009

<http://detnews.com/article/20091216/METRO/912160414>

## German shepherd that helped solve arson-related crimes dies

*SANTIAGO ESPARZA*  
*The Detroit News*

*Pontiac* – Blaze, a 5-year-old German shepherd who helped Oakland County Sheriff Office's personnel investigate arson, died Monday of a cancer-related illness.

The dog had worked for the Fire Investigations Unit since 2006, had responded to 220 service calls, sheriff's officials said. On Blaze's first day on the job he helped determine where a fire was started in a Pontiac church.

Blaze helped arrest 37 people for arson-related crimes, according to the sheriff's deputies.

He was purchased for the department through a \$5,000 donation from the Farm Bureau Insurance Co. He underwent five weeks of intensive training before being assigned, sheriff's officials said.

"Blaze was a valued and loyal member of the OCSO team and we will miss him very much," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. "Even though his career was short, he had an outstanding record of service in arson investigation."

[sesparza@detnews.com](mailto:sesparza@detnews.com)">[sesparza@detnews.com](mailto:sesparza@detnews.com) (313) 222-2320

---

© Copyright 2009 The Detroit News. All rights reserved.